

SECRET
Information

ALBANIA
August 1953

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

On 1 August, the People's Assembly received the program of the new government from Prime Minister Hoxha. His speech revealed that Albania is following the new Moscow policy of easing the industrialization program and the economic burden of the population, but without releasing control over the country. He reiterated the loyalty of Albania to the USSR and bitterly attacked the Balkan Pact, the Anglo-Americans and their propaganda.

On 17 August, the first meeting took place between the representatives of Yugoslavia and Albania to establish a Border Commission. Hungary, and Bulgaria previously have created bilateral frontier Commissions with Yugoslavia. Border incidents, however, appear to have continued.

King Zog has been informed that the Egyptian Government no longer recognizes his diplomatic status, although it will allow Zog and his entourage to remain in the country and will provide them with "laissez-passeurs". Zog took no action against the closing of the Legation, since he had intended to close it for financial reasons in any event. Because of the action taken by the Egyptian Government, a Division suspended action to obtain Zog's American visas.

During the period covered by this report, Mr. Hasan Kushi, President of the NCPA, sent a letter under our direction to Secretary of State Dulles. Mr. Dulles replied in kind, setting the U. S. attitude towards Albania. Despite the fact that the British considered Mr. Dulles' letter too strong and wished to spend more time in consideration of the answer, and despite the feeling of the NCPA that the reply provided an opening for Communist propaganda, the exchange of letters was made public on 26 August. So far, the release has been carried only over the Free Europe. The letters will also be exploited by Radio SOE: Soyuzia, the Albanian News Bulletin, and the Voice of Free Albania.

2. INTERNAL SECURITY

Albanian project SECRET is directed from the SECRET by the Project Vials Chief. A SECRET in SECRET handles the interrogation and screening of Albanian refugees.

3. OPERATIONAL SECURITY - (SECRET)

A. Parasilitary

(1) Willow team, which infiltrated on 26 July, reported that on 20 June a team of 4 men was attacked in the area of Koral and Vukelice. Three men were killed, and the fourth, after fighting alone for three hours, took his life with poison. Although the location and date of action coincide with the last position report from Apple/3, the size of the group and the description of the team lead to the belief that it could also be the Orange-Blue Group.

(2) The five-man Pig team was infiltrated into Albania on 16 August, and was activated two hours later. Two team members infiltrated to Greece on the 16th, and the other three followed on the 17th, in good order, with high morale.

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(3) On 25 August, a successful flight was made to drop taken arms and supplies to an alleged resistance leader, who was alerted by flare during the leaflet drop of 22 August and whose name and supposed location had been provided by a recent refugee (c.f. para 3B (6) below). Although no reception signal was visible, 250 lbs. of supplies were dropped. In addition to the supplies, 400 lbs. of leaflets were dropped as a diversionary action during the flight.

B. Political-Psychological

(1) The British dropped HCFR leaflets on the night of 3 August. Although the flight plan is unknown, some of these leaflets landed at Sar and Wloini in Yugoslavia, according to the Yugoslav radio.

(2) On the night of 22 August, an airdrop of 400 lbs. of leaflets took place. It was the first drop of the digest of Shqipëria, the HCFR newspaper, designed to exploit events as they occur. Incorporated in the digest was a defection appeal to high-ranking Communists.

(3) The clandestine radio, Voice of Free Albania, maintained a regular broadcast schedule using high power transmitters for all broadcasts. During this period, a defection appeal, similar to that printed in the Shqipëria digest, was broadcast. Since 26 August, all transmissions have been heavily jammed, possibly as the result of the defection appeal.

(4) The HCFR semi-monthly newspaper, Shqipëria, was printed in Rome on schedule. The digest version of Shqipëria had its first printing in Germany for the air-drop of 22 August.

(5) The Albanian News Bulletin, printed irregularly in Rome in English, French, and Italian, published its 20th issue on 23 July.

(6) Genc Kercba, who escaped from Yugoslavia with Zef Shillaku in order to contact "the Americans", came to Rome and met the HCFR representative on 16 August. He made the following claims in his statement: "One Hil Shillaku is the leader of a Yugoslav-controlled underground net of 35,000 persons, among whom are Ruzhdi Lleshi, President of the Assembly, and Tom Jazova, Minister of Finance, as well as other prominent military officers and civilians. Hil Shillaku has been collaborating with the Yugoslavs under a written agreement negotiated by two Yugoslav agents, Miroslav and Popovich. The agreements were based on the understanding that the Americans were backing Yugoslav efforts to liberate Albania. Shillaku became suspicious of the Yugoslavs when American personnel were noticeably absent. Hil Shillaku crossed into Yugoslavia and designated Kercba and Zef Shillaku to escape and initiate direct liaison with the Americans. Kercba reported that Dusan Supers made the statement that 'the Albanians deceived the Yugoslavs twice - first in 1921, and second in 1941. They will not do it a third time. This time Albania will become the 7th Republic of Yugoslavia.' Kercba also states that the reason the Yugoslavs were so angry when Apostol Teneff claimed 50,000 supporters was that they felt the secret of the 35,000 Shillaku net might have been exposed. Shillaku requested that he be picked up by an American helicopter as he fears the Yugoslavs may liquidate him before liaison has been established between the Americans and the net. Genc Kercba was carriage-tested in Trieste with satisfactory results. It was decided to attempt to contact Shillaku, despite the fact that pick-up

by helicopter

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by helicopter was not feasible and it was considered undesirable to make any personnel drops. In accordance with Shillaker's message, a flare was dropped on 22 August, and a message and supplies were dropped on 25 August. The British have been informed of this development. The RPA Executive Committee has been told of the existence of the net but given no details for security reasons.

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Chief, SE/1